

**Members Present:** Sloan, Kent, Petty

**Absent:**

**Others Present:** Mayor Nelson, Adm. Bradley, Clerk Zeman, J. Ostrander, M. Hardy, L. Laux

**Call to Order** –Ald. Sloan called the meeting to order at 6:15p.m. noting compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Moved by Kent, seconded by Petty to approve the minutes of September 28, 2021. Motion carried unanimously. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to approve the agenda and carried unanimously.

**Action Items**

- a) **Accounts Payable** – Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council for approval of the accounts payable for **\$417,369.15**. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) **2022 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Fees and Charges** – M. Hardy reviewed the proposed program fees for 2022 noting increases to several facilities and programs including shelter rental fees, pool fees, and some adult recreational fees. He also noted that Parks Commission is recommending a 2% increase for the Civic Center, which includes the long term lease rates. This increase is in part due to the increase in water charges. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council for approval of the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department fees and Charges. Motion carried unanimously.
- c) **2022 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Seasonal Wages** – M. Hardy noted that one of our biggest challenges is getting employees without raising the wages. We do attempt to keep our wages in line with surrounding communities but at the same time knowing that any increase in wages has to be reflected on our fees. Changes for 2022 include a slight increase to life guards, adult volleyball, civic center weekend maintenance, parks maintenance, and zoo employees. In order to stay competitive, staff has been working to continue an incentive program for seasonal lifeguards by giving gift cards to area businesses. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council approval of the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Seasonal Wages. Motion carried unanimously.
- d) **Pierce Park Pavilion Lease** – M. Hardy explained that the Baraboo Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association has been with the City since about 1997 and during this time they have never been charged rent for the use of this pavilion. During the 6-month rental, they are responsible for all utilities. The Parks Commission is recommending the same stipulations of waiving the rent and requiring that they provide public skating on Sunday nights for 3 hrs, and free skating during the Winterfest Celebration. Moved by Kent, seconded by Petty to recommend to Council approving the lease of the Pierce Park Pavilion to the Baraboo Thunderbird Youth Hockey Association for October 15, 2021 to April 14, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.
- e) **2022 Boys & Girls Club of Baraboo-Sauk County Lease** – Other than the slight increase in the lease amount, no changes are proposed. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council for approval to continue subsidizing the Boys & Girls Club of Baraboo-Sauk County lease for 2022 by 80%. Motion carried unanimously.
- f) **2022 Baraboo Area Senior Citizens Organization Lease** – Other than the slight increase in the lease amount, no changes are proposed. Moved by Kent, seconded by Petty to recommend to Council for approval to continue subsidizing the Baraboo Area Senior Citizens Organization lease for 2022 by 80%. Motion carried unanimously.
- g) **Stage III Theater for Youth Lease**- Other than the slight increase in the lease amount, not changes are proposed. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council for approval to continue subsidizing the Stage III Theater for Youth lease for 2022 by 50%. Motion carried unanimously.

- h) **ARPA Funding** – Adm. Bradley reviewed the bond and approved project plan for the Jackson property. We were originally looking at \$4.8M in principal, the issuance of \$5,170,000. At the last Finance meeting, it was discussed that we would use \$1M of the COVID funds to be used towards the Water, Sewer and Stormwater at the Jackson property. Anticipating our costs will slightly increase, he estimated the new bond amount at \$3.9M. Under the original model, we will have to go until 2042 to get the full value recouped. Under the proposed, we would have enough money to close the TID in 2040. By doing so, we would then essentially save a net of \$1.6M in additional tax revenues. We would save \$728,000 in interest costs and \$135,000 in issuance costs, a net savings of \$863,000. When you add in the 1.5 years of tax revenue, your net savings by putting \$1M up front yields about \$2.5M on the back side. Mayor Nelson noted that we don't have a clear understanding of what we could spend this money on. We should consider that \$1M today might not be worth \$1M twenty years from now; trading today's dollars for future dollars. Finance Director J. Ostrander noted that by saving some room in our debt, we can always borrow for something else. Adm. Bradley noted that at this point, we are not showing a revenue loss which is restricting what this money can be used for. The committee also reviewed the use of COVID funds for the purchase of 22 portable and 5 mobile radios for a total commitment of up to \$109,000. Any remaining funds will be used for any COVID-19 related expenditures as needed. Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend to Council approving the resolution allocating of the American Rescue Plans Funding. Motion carried unanimously.
- i) **Litigation Opt In** – Adm. Bradley noted that we received a letter regarding a bankruptcy that was declared as of a result of the opioid litigation. It appears that the State of Wisconsin is involved in this and the Department of Justice has basically asked all municipalities if they would like to opt-in. Atty. Steve Zach is recommending that we register with the national settlement litigation which will allow him to receive and review any information relevant to the decision of whether to opt-in; no risk is involved at this time. Motion by Petty, seconded by Kent to recommend the Council approve the City register with the national settlement class action litigation. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Discussion Items**

- a. Adm. Bradley, Finance Director J. Ostrander, and City Treasurer L. Laux presented the preliminary draft of the 2022 Budget.

**Adjournment** – Moved by Petty, seconded by Kent and carried to adjourn at 6:52pm.  
Brenda Zeman, City Clerk